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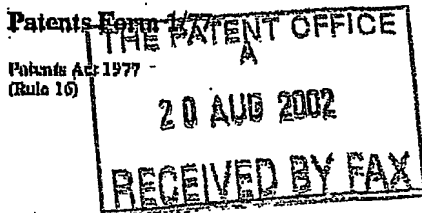
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1.	Your Reference	PS1245u GB		
2.	Patent Application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	0219374.6		
3.	Full name, address and postcode of the or each applicant (underline all surnames)	Dubois Limited Amaray House Arkwright Road Corby, Northants NN17 5AE, GB		
	Patents ADP Number (if you know it)	7269467002		
	If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	England & Wales		
4.	Title of the invention	Security Container		
5.	Name of your agent (if you have one)	Fry Heath & Spence		
	"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	The Old College 53 High Street Horley, Surrey RH6 7BN		
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8.	Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:	Yes		
	a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor; or			
	b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant; or			
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Patents Form 1/77

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Description 8
 Claim(s) 0
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16

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Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

S.G.U.

Date

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12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

S. G. Unwin, 01865 841060

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Security Container

This invention relates to security containers for containing goods whilst they are on display in a retail outlet.

Security containers for housing information storage media, e.g. CDs and DVDs, are known. WO02/39451 describes various forms of apparatus for holding information storage media and security devices for use therewith and the contents thereof is incorporated herein. WO02/39451 is primarily concerned with a security device arranged to lock a CD or DVD container in a closed configuration. The security device preferably carries alarm triggering means, such as an Electronic Article Surveillance (EAS) label or tag. Once the security device has been released, it may be withdrawn from the container (with the alarm triggering means) for disposal or re-use in another CD or DVD container, so the container can be freely opened and closed to permit access to the CD or DVD therein and the purchaser can then take the container away from the retail outlet without triggering the alarm.

An alternative way of securing CD or DVD containers is to house them, complete with their existing containers, in a lockable overbox which is known in the trade as a 'safer'. Alarm triggering means are housed within the overbox and, when the goods are purchased by a customer, the retailer unlocks the overbox and removes the CD or DVD container housed therein for the customer to take away. The overbox is retained in the store for re-use.

The present invention provides another form of security container or overbox.

According to a first aspect of the invention, a security container such as that described in WO02/39451 is arranged or used as an overbox, and has a security device which is insertable therein to lock the box in a closed configuration.

In a preferred form of the invention, the security container is used to form an overbox for a conventional CD or DVD container, for example the well-known form of container known as a "jewel-box".

Preferably, the security container is of a shape and size and the security device used therewith is of a nature such that the container can be inserted within existing release apparatus, as sold for unlocking DVD containers of the type described in WO02/39451, and the security device released thereby.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided an over container for providing a security housing for a first container, the over container being adapted to receive or contain the first container and having alarm triggering means therein such that, when in a locked configuration, neither the first container nor the alarm triggering means can be removed therefrom and, when in an unlocked configuration, the over container can be opened to allow the first container to be removed therefrom, the over container being provided with a locking device having first and second arms which, in a locked position, respectively engage parts of the over container so as to hold the over container in a closed position and which, in an unlocked position, enable said parts to be moved to an open configuration, the locking device having retaining means which, when the locking device is moved to the locked position, acts to retain the locking device in this position and which is releasable upon application of a predetermined magnetic field thereto.

The over container may be arranged to be a snug-fit around the first container. Alternatively, the over container may be provided with locating means for locating and/or holding the first container therein.

According to a further aspect of the invention a security container such as that described in WO02/39451 is used to house goods directly (rather than as an over box). For example, goods such as a watch, necklace or other jewellery may be housed in the container. Preferably, the security container is provided with locating means for locating and/or holding the goods therein.

Preferably, the security device, whilst being movable between locked and unlocked positions, cannot be removed from the over container. In a preferred embodiment, the security device comprises a resilient tab which is orientated so as to flex as it passes through a slot when the security device is first installed in the container but is unable to pass through the slot in the opposite direction and so prevents the security device being withdrawn completely from the container. Alternatively, the security device may comprise a slot located over a pin provided in the over container such that the security device can be slid back and forth but held captive by said pin.

The invention also relates to a security device per se for use in a security container as described above.

Preferably, the security device is similar to that shown and described in relation to Figures 1-3, 11 or 23 of WO02/39451 although the longer arm thereof may be shorter as it does not need to interact with disk holding means.

Preferably, the security device comprises a locking mechanism similar to that shown and described in relation to Figures 11-15 and Figures 19A-19B of WO02/39451.

Preferably, the security device is such as to be releasable from the locked position thereof by release apparatus similar to that shown and described in relation to Figures 34-37 of WO02/39451. Alternatively, the release apparatus may be of a modified form similar to that described in GB2371597A, e.g. as shown and described in relation to Figures 6 and 7 thereof. The disclosure of GB2371597A is incorporated herein.

The security container or overbox preferably has an EAS tag or label affixed thereto. This may be an acousto-magnetic (AM) device, for instance in the form of a label or strip applied to an inner surface of the container or to part of the security device so that it cannot be removed by a potential thief when the container is locked in a closed configuration.

Alternatively, a radio frequency (RF) device may be used, e.g. in the form of a flat coil of wire which acts as a transponder. Such coils typically have a diameter of around 50mm so, in some cases, it may be desirable to locate the goods held by the container off-centre or towards one side of the container to provide more room for the coil. In another arrangement, the transponder may comprise a coil wound around a ferrite core. In some cases, it may be desirable to mount such a transponder in a part of the security device, e.g. as described in GB0215397.1 the disclosure of which is incorporated herein. In this arrangement, the transponder is mounted within the head of the security device so it is located adjacent an external edge of the container.

Other features of the invention will be apparent from the following description.

The invention will now be further described, merely by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figures 1A and 1B show perspective views of a security container according to the first aspect of the invention used as an over-box for a jewel box; Figure 1A showing a security device thereof in a locked position and Figure 1B showing the security device in an unlocked position; and Figure 1C shows a perspective view of the security device itself;

Figures 2A and 2B shows perspective views of a security container according to said further aspect of the invention used to house goods, such as a watch, directly; Figure 2A showing a security device thereof in a locked position and Figure 2B showing the security device in an unlocked position; and Figure 2C shows a perspective view of the security device itself (which is the same as that shown in Figure 1C; and

Figure 3A, 3B and 3C are cross-sections taken on line A-A of Figure 1A or Figure 2A showing the security device in three positions.

Figure 1A shows a container 1 comprising a base portion 1A and a lid portion 1B hinged along side 1C generally similar to that described in WO02/39451 but without disk holding means and shaped so as to hold a conventional jewel box 2 therein.

A security device 3 as shown in Figure 1C is inserted into the opening side 1D of the container to lock it in the closed position. The security device 3 comprises a head portion 3A, a first arm 3B and a second arm 3C and is similar to that shown in Figure 23 of WO02/39451 except that the longer arm 3C thereof is much shorter as, in this embodiment, it does not interact with disk holding means or carry an EAS label. Instead an EAS label 7 is provided within the container (on an internal surface thereof).

The security device 3 has a locking mechanism 4 comprising a pivot arm 5. This is similar to the pivot arm described in WO02/39451 but has additional upstanding tabs 5A the function of which will be described below with reference to Figure 3.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 1A and 1B, the container also has a cover 6 formed therein for covering the part of the security device 3 located within the container 1.

Figure 1C shows the security device prior to installation in the container. Figure 1A shows the security device when inserted in the container so as to hold the container in a closed position, the two arms 3A and 3C being fitted within slots in the lid and base portion 1B and 1A, respectively. The EAS label 7 is thus also locked within the container.

Once the locking mechanism 4 has been released, the security device 3 can be partially withdrawn from the container until the first arm 3A is withdrawn from the lid portion and so allows the lid portion 1B to be opened.

As will be described below, the security device 3 is preferably arranged so that it cannot be withdrawn from the position shown in Figure 1B so it is held captive.

Once the jewel box 2 has been removed and given to a customer, the container 1 can thus be re-used as a cover box for another jewel box.

Figures 2A, 2B and 2C show a similar arrangement to Figures 1A, 1B and 1C except that the container directly houses goods, such as a watch 10, rather than acting as a cover box. Preferably, the container is adapted to hold the watch 10 in place or is provided with an insert, e.g. a sheet cardboard with slots therein, for holding the watch in place. When the watch is sold, it may be removed from the container so the container can be re-used in the store. Alternatively, the container may be given to the customer as a presentation case for the watch. However, in the latter case, the security device would need to be of a form that could be removed entirely or put into a state in which the locking mechanism is inactive, e.g. as shown and described in relation to Figures 12 and 13 of WO02/39451. Figures 2A and 2B show an RF alarm triggering device 1D in the form of a flat coil mounted within the container 1.

The containers shown in Figures 1 and 2 are preferably shaped so as to be able to be inserted into the same release apparatus as the store uses for unlocking DVD containers as described in WO02/39451. Alternatively, the release apparatus may be designed to accommodate a range of different size containers, e.g. as described in GB2371597A. In other situations, it may be desired for separate release apparatus to be used whereby the container can be of other shapes and/or sizes.

Figures 3A, 3B and 3C respectively show the security device when it is first installed in the container, when it is in the locked position and when it is partially withdrawn so as to enable the lid portion to be opened.

The Figures show the head portion 3A and first and second arms 3B and 3D of the security device and the pivot arm 5 carried by the second arm 3B. They also show the extra tab 5A thereof. The Figures also show part of the lid and base portions 1A and 1B of the containers 1 and slots 1E and 1F with which the arms 3B and 3C engage respectively.

In Figure 3A, the security device 3 is being inserted into the container and the tab 5A is flexed as it passes through the slot 1F.

In Figure 3B, the security device 3 is in the locked position with arm 3A within slot 1E and arm 3B within slot 1F. An end 5B of the pivot arm 5 engages a detent 1G within the container to prevent withdrawal of the security device 3.

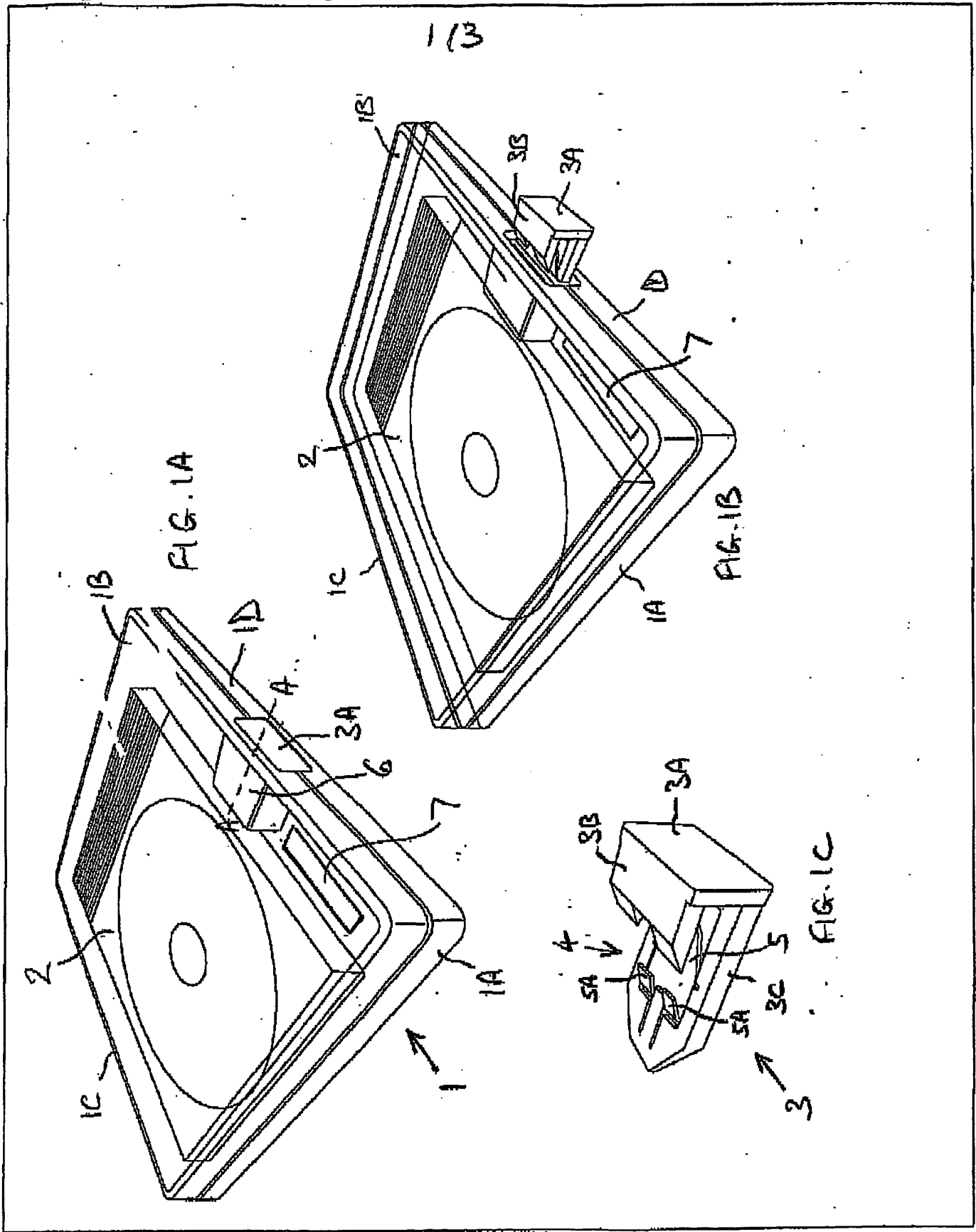
When the container 1 is inserted into release apparatus, a further inward force is applied to the security device 3 and a magnetic field is applied to the pivot arm 5 to move it out of engagement with the detent 1G whereby the security device 3 can be withdrawn to the position shown in Figure 3C. In this position, the first arm 3A is withdrawn from slot 1E so the lid portion 1B can be opened. However, tab 5A engages a further detent 1H in the container and prevents the security device 3 being withdrawn completely.

Other arrangements may be used to prevent complete withdrawal of the security tag from the container. The security device 3 may, for instance, have a slot in arm 3C which fits over a pin in the container such that the security device can be slid back and forth on the pin but is held captive thereby.

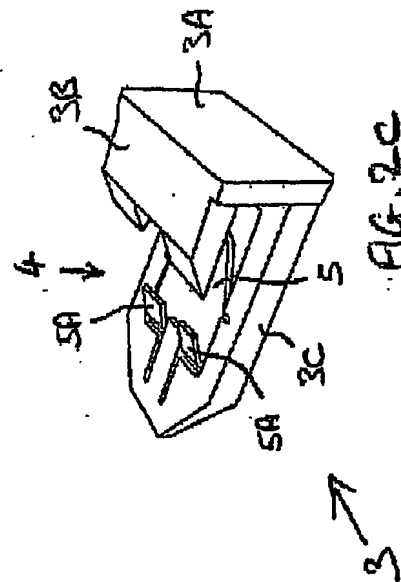
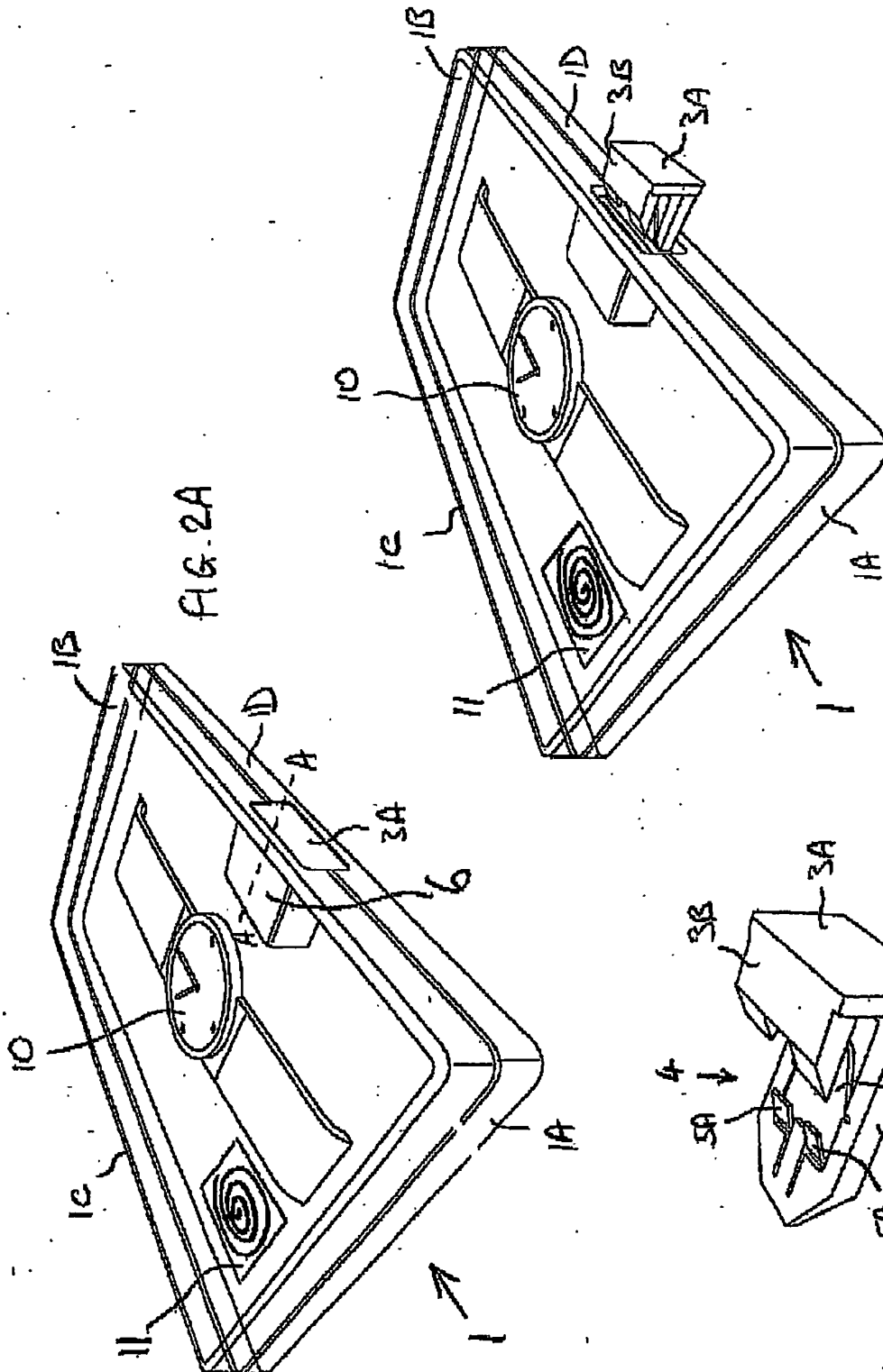
The security container is preferably formed of a tough plastic material which is difficult for a potential thief to break inconspicuously, e.g. a tough polycarbonate. Preferably, the container is of clear plastic so the contents can be easily seen therethrough.

The present invention is not restricted to the details of the embodiments described above. The security device, and the locking mechanism used therein, may for instance be modified or other forms of security device or locking mechanism used although, preferably, the principles of operation thereof are similar to those described above.

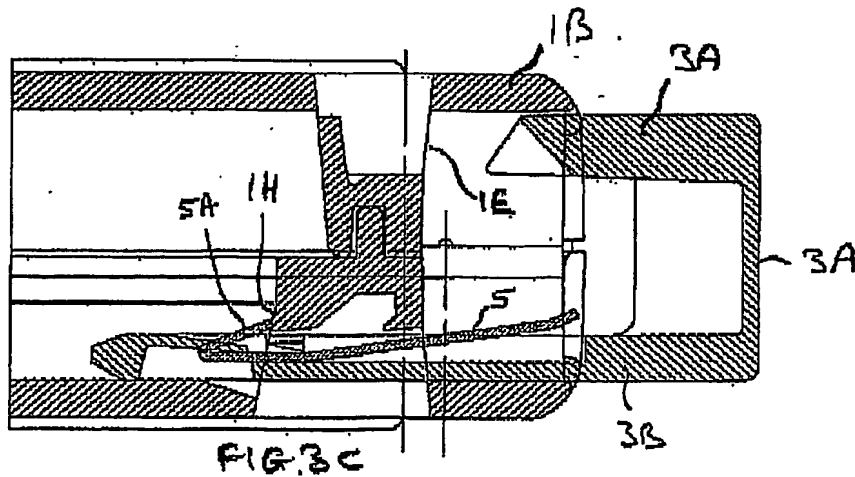
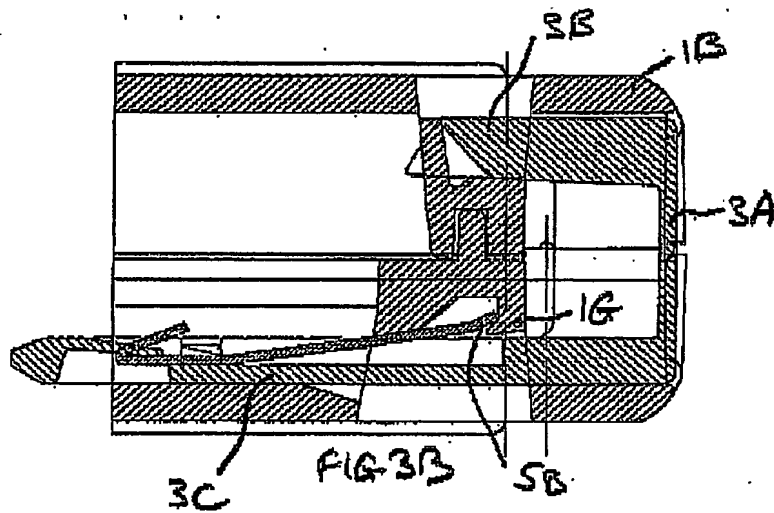
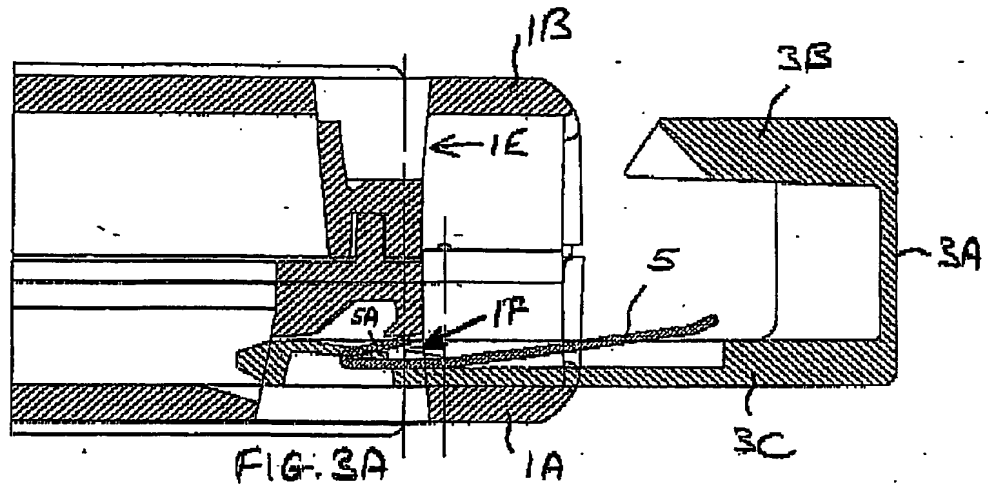
The security container described above can be used as an over container for a wide variety of goods which are already housed in a primary container. Alternatively, it can be used to directly house a variety of other goods. In both cases, it enables the products to be displayed in a retail outlet but provides a level of security which helps deter or prevent theft of the goods from the store.



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